

The Times

THE TIMES COMPANY.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1902.

THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION.

The Constitutional Convention yesterday practically completed its work, and the Constitution is now all done except the revision. And there is joy among the delegates. They have been here for nearly ten months, and have remained here at great personal inconvenience and cost and sacrifice. They came here to do the State a patriotic service, and they have done it. They have labored unceasingly and unselfishly, and they have framed a good Constitution—the best, we believe, the State has ever had. The Constitution is not perfect, and no one understands its defects better than its framers. But Virginia is a large State, with diverse and conflicting interests, and in order to make a Constitution for the whole State a compromise in many instances was necessary.

This was especially the case, as all know, with the suffrage clause. This clause is not entirely satisfactory to any single delegate, not even to those who made it. But after many earnest conferences, after patient exchange of views between delegates, after hearing everything that could be suggested by press and people, after canvassing the question thoroughly, and, we may say, prayerfully, the delegates finally concluded that the compromise agreed upon was the best that could be had. We believe that the great body of white men in Virginia will accept it in the spirit in which it was framed.

Our own opinion is that the plan which has been adopted will meet the emergency. We believe that under it the objectionable negro voters will be eliminated, and that even after the "understanding" feature has expired by limitation the prepayment of the poll tax and the education qualification will be quite sufficient to keep these objectionable negro voters out of our politics. There will then be no pretext for dishonest elections in Virginia, and we say with all reverence, may the Good Lord forever deliver us from this shame.

The convention has been severely criticized for arbitrarily reducing the tax rate from forty to thirty cents on the one hundred dollars. As an original proposition The Times was opposed to this action, and yet there is much to be said in its favor. The Committee on Finance reported that by reducing expenses on the one hand and increased revenues on the other it would be entirely practicable to reduce the rate of taxation. Delegate Withers and his associates, who have been fighting for a reduction in expenses and in taxation, logically argued that if it was feasible to reduce the rate of taxation, then let the convention show the courage of its convictions and make the reductions sure.

There was no escape from this logic, and by a large majority the convention voted with Mr. Withers. We take this occasion to congratulate him and his associates in all sincerity upon their splendid triumph.

Moreover, it was argued on the part of Mr. Glass, Mr. Keckell and other conservative men that it was well enough to make this reduction imperative, and to put the General Assembly on notice to be economical in its appropriations. There is no reason to believe that the public service or the public credit will suffer by reason of this move in the interest of economy. By this reduction the tax-payers will save in one year from four to five times as much as the convention has cost. That of itself is a great accomplishment, and we believe that when the people understand all the advantages and benefits which they will receive from the new Constitution they will instruct their delegates to come back to Richmond in May and proclaim this to be the organic law of Virginia.

THE OLEOMARGARINE BILL.

In spite of the vigorous fight against it, the Senate has passed the oleomargarine bill by a vote of 23 to 21. The measure provides that oleomargarine and kindred products shall be subject to all laws and regulations or any State of Territory into which they are imported; that any person who sells oleomargarine or furnishes it for the use of any other except his own family, who shall mix with it any artificial coloration which causes it to look like butter, shall be held to the tax provided by the existing law; that upon oleomargarine colored so as to resemble butter a tax shall be levied of ten cents a pound, but upon oleomargarine not colored the tax shall be one-fourth of one cent a pound.

We believe in laws to prevent food adulteration and if this bill were honest, if oleomargarine colored so as to represent butter were really an unwholesome product, it would be all right for the Government to take steps to protect the people against it.

But we have two very serious objections to the bill as it passed the Senate. First of all, it is not an honest measure. It is not designed to protect the people against an unwholesome article of food, because it is confessed that oleomargarine is entirely wholesome. The object of the bill is to protect the great dairy interests of the West against competition with the oleomargarine industry.

Our other objection is that the taxing power is here used as a regulatory agency. We hold that that principle is vicious and utterly at variance with Democracy. It is bad enough under the most favorable circumstances for the Government to exercise the taxing power, for taxation is the confiscation of private property. It is necessary that the Government should have revenue, and it is agreed among the people that they will suffer themselves to be taxed in order

that the Government may raise sufficient revenue to carry on its operations. But the Government has no moral or constitutional right to levy a tax for any purpose save that of raising money for the Government. When the taxation is used as a regulatory measure, as a prohibitive measure, or as a means of helping one industry or branch of business at the expense of another, it is an outrageous abuse of authority and should not be tolerated in this free land.

THE BEEF TRUST.

In connection with the discussion of trusts, our esteemed contemporary, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, directs our attention to an article in one of the New York papers, in which it is charged that the Beef Trust has put up the price of meats from time to time, until poor people are not able to buy a good steak or a good roast. The Virginian-Pilot wants to know what The Times has to say about the Beef Trust.

First of all, the Beef Trust is more a creature of the imagination than a reality. There are several large concerns handling meats. They have not formed a combination in name, although it is charged that they have formed a combination in fact—that is to say that they have entered into an agreement to keep up the price of meat.

But there are several natural causes to account for the high price of meat. A large cattle-raiser from Southwest Virginia said in our hearing the other day that the supply of beef was not equal to the demand and that in all probability this condition would continue for a long time to come. Our population has increased, the number of people who are able to buy fresh meats has increased and we are shipping meat in large quantities to foreign lands. That accounts for the enormous demand.

The supply is scarce because of the failure of the corn crop of the West; because of the closing of great public ranges; because of the extraordinary demand from the war in South Africa and in the Philippines. In this connection, the Staunton News, which is published in a rich grazing section, says:

The price of beef cattle in Chicago is the highest for twenty-five years except in March, 1882, when it was twenty-five cents a hundred higher. "The consumption has caught up entirely with production, and if the demand continues prices must go higher, as there is no more meat to be had. This is encouraging news to those who raise cattle, but quite the opposite to those who eat them."

The price has reached as high as \$7.49 a hundred. In March, 1896, the price was \$7.75. From this it is reasonable to suppose that the price of meat would have increased, whether there had been a Beef Trust or not. Look at the price of corn. There is no corn trust, and yet corn is selling for twice as much as it brought a year ago. We doubt if the price of meat would fall to any appreciable extent if the so-called Beef Trust should be dissolved.

But the Beef Trust, if you choose to call it such, has one thing in its favor, and the Government is responsible for it. We refer to the tariff on foreign meats, which gives the meat dealers in this country the power to raise prices. "For every pound of beef steak or pork that enters the mouth of the American consumer," says the Philadelphia Record, "he must pay a tax of two per cent. to the trust, and the tax is the same for the prime steaks that are selected by the rich as the scraggy portion of the meat consumed by the poor. This tax must be paid to the trust, for as the duty on meat is practically prohibited, no revenue from it flows into the public treasury and it serves merely to enhance the profit extracted by the trust from the American consumers."

The Philadelphia Times calls attention to the fact that the trust packers, who use borax to preserve their meats, supported by their agents in Germany, are straining every nerve to prevent the Government at Berlin from shutting their goods out from the German market. So the meat trust is struggling to sell its products to foreign people at the world's level of prices, while its customers at home must submit to extortion. "Nowhere," says our contemporary, "is meat produced more cheaply than here, and if the trust can sell to Europe at a reasonable price it should be compelled to do the same thing in the United States. It is an intolerable outrage that a rich trust, shut behind a tariff wall, should have it in its power to squeeze a monstrous price out of the domestic consumer."

We do not believe in anti-trust laws as they have been administered, but we are more opposed to laws which are designed especially to aid trusts or corporations or individuals in carrying on their business affairs.

We are opposed to all sorts of class legislation, whether it be against or in favor of this interest or that. We can conceive of no greater outrage of government than laws which enable a private concern to levy a tax upon the people in order that its own profit may be increased.

In fighting the trusts along that line The Times is ever ready to join hands and hands with the Virginian-Pilot or any other newspaper.

The Leesburg Mirror has expanded into an eight-page, sixty-four column paper and is now the largest country weekly in the State. Very good. The Mirror is determined to reflect the enterprise and prosperity of the rich community it represents.

We say to the Suffolk Herald that The Times has not urged the Constitutional Convention to proclaim the Constitution. We have simply said that, in our opinion, it would be best for all interests that that course be followed. We also believe that that is what the great body of white people in the State desire the convention to do. The delegates will find out when they take a recess and go home and will govern themselves accordingly.

The financial plank of the platform of the new Allied Party calls for money based upon the entire wealth of the people of the nation and not redeemable in any specific commodity, but to be legal tender for all debts, public and private, and to be issued by the government only,

and without the intervention of banks, sufficient in quantity to meet the requirements of commerce.

Now let all who want that sort of money join the Allied. That is where they belong.

We have more than once referred in these columns to the experiments that have been made in Connecticut in growing tobacco under cover. The experiment has also been tried in Florida with marked success. The Southern Tobacco Journal has an article on the same subject. It says that no locality can tell in advance what can or cannot be done with shade grown tobacco, but that the results obtained on both sides of them, in Florida and New England, will justify North Carolina farmers in making experiments along the same line.

We have urged Virginia planters to try their hand on bright tobacco under cover. The experiment were well worth trying.

Burglars scored five successful raids in Richmond one night last week, and in the most populous, frequented and brilliantly lighted sections of the city. Does this indicate that the police force of the Capital City is insufficient or that it is inefficient?—Brunswick Gazette.

You know what the old woman said about her friend's dinner: "It was good enough, what there was of it."

The Norfolk strike cost the State \$20,000. That was enough to make a fairly good exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition. But war is always expensive.

VIRGINIA TOPICS.

A Hero in Black.

The Farmville Herald pays this deserved tribute to a Richmond hero: One day last week a "pretty lady and little girl" were out driving in Richmond, when the horse became unmanageable and ran furiously down one of the streets, the vehicle swerving from side to side, and those who witnessed the thrilling scene expected it to result in sudden and shocking death.

Wesley Armstrong, a brave colored man, did not simply look on, but catching sight of the flying steed, rushed to the rescue, and at imminent peril of his own life, seized the rein of the bridge and after being dragged some distance, succeeded in stopping the animal. While rubbing his bruises some one asked him as to his venture, when he modestly said:

"I never thought what a great risk I ran until it was all over. I saw the horse coming, and I didn't want to see that pretty lady and the little girl hurt, so I tried to stop him, and I nearly jerked my arms out, but I stopped him."

And then Wesley took a car and went on to Fulton.

Of such stuff are the world's heroes made. All honor to this noble colored man! He is worthy a place on the pension rolls.

The rescued lady made a memorandum of his name and address, and no doubt remembered him liberally, and will always think of him gratefully.

Two Good Articles.

We devote the greater part of our editorial space to the publication of two communications that cannot prove otherwise than of interest to our readers. One of these is from Mr. Robt. Turbun, in which he points out clearly and forcibly the difference between the provisions of the new Constitution and those of the one now in force, and the other is from a correspondent of the Richmond Times, who signs himself "A Democrat," and is headed "An Appeal to the Convention," in which the writer points out and emphasizes the dangers that lurk in the suffrage clause that has been agreed upon by the sub-conferences of the Democratic members of the convention. Since this appeal was in print the property qualification of the right of suffrage has been eliminated from the plan, leaving only the poll tax, an educational test and an understanding clause as the means of restricting suffrage. Both communications are well worthy of the careful consideration of our readers to whose attention we commend them. We regret that the space at our command will not permit us to publish either one in full this week. They will both be concluded in our next issue.—Brunswick Gazette.

PERSONAL AND CRITICAL.

Senator Hoar belongs to a club of literary men which meets up in the Adirondacks. "He says that in bygone days, when Longfellow and Emerson were alive and members of the organization, an outing at the rendezvous was proposed, but Longfellow declined because Emerson was to carry a gun."

She—You say he is clever on skates.

He—Yes, very. He can cut almost anything on them. Why, he had a girl skating with him yesterday and he cut a proposal of marriage on the ice.

She—And what did the girl do?

He—Oh, she sat down on it—Yonkers Statesman.

Wellington E. Parkhurst, of Clinton, Mass., brother of Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, of New York, has an interesting collection of autographs of public men, dating as far back as 1598 and numbering more than 400.

"Did you speak to father about our marriage?" asked Maybelle.

"I did," answered Count Fuchas.

"Did he give his consent?"

"Yes, after a fashion. He said that if you had no more sense than to be willing to marry me, you didn't deserve any better fate."—Washington Star.

All the Rhodes family manifested idiosyncrasies. None of them ever married. The Empire Builder's sister, Miss Rhodes, is of a very masculine appearance, and took her greatest pleasure in riding among the strongholds of the rebellious natives to distribute glass beads and other articles of clothing for the native warriors.

We read that a young woman of Duluth has "Whiskey Fits." We wonder if these are some relation to "Gin Sings."—Springfield Union.

"Like many other men of great vitality and energy," says one of President Roosevelt's biographers, "he is particularly partial to corned beef and cabbage. He has this dish once or twice a week."

J. Pierpont Morgan talks about \$10,000,000 transactions as though he were trading with stage money.—Atlanta Journal.

Henry Norman, the English M. P., was born and first went to school in England; then studied under a tutor in France, graduated at Harvard and afterwards spent two years on a post graduate course at Leipzig University.

Call early with your want ads. for The "Sunday Times wants," the great business breeder. One cent a word.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AMERICANS

Cecil Rhodes' Will Provides for Two from Each State and Territory in the Union.

(By Associated Press.) LONDON, April 4.—The will of Cecil Rhodes provides for the establishment of scholarships, as previously announced, and two American scholarships to each of the present States and Territories of the United States.

The will of Mr. Rhodes also provides for five scholarships for students of German birth at Oxford, to be nominated by Emperor William, and commenting on the bequest, Mr. Rhodes, in a codicil telegraphed from South Africa, said: "I have been much interested in the relations between England, Germany and the United States will secure the peace of the world and educational relations from the strongest tie."

Mr. Rhodes' will is a remarkable and voluminous document of more than 2,500 words. Even this is not the entire will, as the executors only gave out the portions which they consider to be of public interest. It was executed in 1890. There is a codicil attached on the day of the deceased's last departure from England and another codicil from Cape Town leaves \$1,000 yearly to keep up the school in the Matopopo Hills, where his remains are to be buried.

The will further directs that a railroad extension be made into the Matopopo Hills, so that visitors may go there at the week-end to inspect the "majesty and glory of their surroundings."

Mr. Rhodes' explicitly said he was to be buried in an apartment in the solid rock, surrounded by a brass tablet, bearing the words: "Here lie the remains of Cecil John Rhodes." No one else is to be buried there who has not deserved well of his country.

Mr. Rhodes bequeaths all his landed property near Bulawayo and Salisbury, both in Matabeleland, to trustees whom he directs to cultivate the land for the instruction of the people of Rhodesia.

His celebrated country place at Grool Schuur, not far from Cape Town, Mr. Rhodes, as a residence for his son, the "Prime Minister of Federal Government of South Africa," with £1,000 yearly for its maintenance.

All the Rhodes scholarships, American, Colonial and German, are at Oxford.

THE GREATER MEN'S MEETING.

Rev. Carey E. Morgan to Speak at Y. M. C. A. Hall To-Morrow.

The men's meetings, which have proven such a great power and of so much public interest, will be continued at the Y. M. C. A. Hall to-morrow afternoon at three-thirty o'clock. Rev. Carey E. Morgan, the popular pastor of the Seventh-Street Christian Church, who speaks to hundreds of men every Sunday, will address the meeting, the theme, "Saved by Grace."

The music will be led by the Broadus-Memorial Bible school, orchestra and choir. The song service will begin promptly at three-thirty, and the meeting closes at 4:45. It is the purpose to shorten the meetings and to make the largest attendance already created. Mr. Morgan is a magnificent speaker to men, and the meeting will be of great interest. All men are cordially invited and tickets can be secured at the building and prominent stores.

Dr. E. L. Ladd will continue his Saturday afternoon interesting talks on the Sunday-school lesson in the Association Hall at five o'clock this afternoon. This study is open to both ladies and gentlemen.

TO BE USED FOR CLASSES.

Old Dominion Hospital Building to Give College Room.

The completion of the Memorial Hospital at Twelfth and Broad Streets before the beginning of the next session of the medical colleges will enable the Medical College of Virginia to use the Old Dominion Hospital building for college purposes.

The present building of the college is not near large enough to accommodate the classes, and the members of the faculty have felt called upon to secure a new building. The large interest already created, Mr. Morgan is a magnificent speaker to men, and the meeting will be of great interest. All men are cordially invited and tickets can be secured at the building and prominent stores.

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Ye Men!

This won't Interest You if you have such a deep-seated prejudice against negligee shirts that argument of any kind could not remove.

If you wear them or intend wearing them, come up on Broad Street and look at ours.

Some stores seem to strive for the most hideous patterns imaginable.

Our lines at 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.50 are the prettiest we have seen anywhere, in neat figures and stripes, and the 50c shirt has all the style of the \$1.50 garment.

All the new shades in Green, Tan, Blue and Oxford.

Our line of Summer Underwear is now complete.

Men's section, center aisle.

Miller & Rhoads

FIRE-ALARM BOXES BROKEN.

Citizens in Turning in Alarms Cause Damage Unknowingly.

The Board of Fire Commissioners met in regular session last night at 8:30 o'clock and transacted a great deal of routine business. Superintendent W. H. Thompson submitted a special report in regard to fire alarm boxes being broken into by citizens wishing to turn in an alarm, which was in part as follows:

"We have been called upon twice during the past month to renew outside doors to fire-alarm boxes that were broken or by parties eager to turn in an alarm for trivial causes without using the keys, which are always available on the corners near the alarm boxes. This is a bad practice, and a sooner or later will result in heavy loss by reason of not being able to sound the alarm at all, for in breaking the outside door the delicate glass which shields the works of the interior box is liable to be broken, and nine times out of ten clog the clock-work in the box so as it will not run; then again the glass may so engage itself as to cut the small magnet-wires or cause the box to stop between the pauses, thus opening the entire circuit, not only making this particular box inoperative, but throwing twenty or more boxes in this locality out of service."

A resolution was received from the Council asking that a fire-alarm box be placed at the corner of Fourth and Louisiana Streets, Fulton, and referred to Captain G. W. Taylor and Superintendent Thompson.

William Mitchell was appointed a regular substitute in Engine Company No. 8. Just as the board was finishing up its business the gong started a tune and 23 boxes were recorded. Of course, all went to the fire.

Chief Potter is still detained at his home, No. 12 East Clay Street, by sickness, though he is reported better to-day. Chief George C. Shaw has the department in hand while the Chief is sick. No action was taken by the board in regard to the new engine company. A special meeting will be called for this purpose on next Monday week, the 14th. The board will also hold a special meeting shortly in regard to placing the city's wires underground.

German Exports Gain.

(By Associated Press.) BERLIN, April 4.—The last quarter's exports to the United States amounted to \$27,762,000 from all Germany, an increase of \$1,287,500.

The exports from Leipzig increased \$1,148,000, from Berlin \$523,000, from Bremen \$238,894, and from Cologne \$455,887. The consulates in the sugar districts lost heavily. The Madagascar exports dropped \$1,137,500 and Hamburg \$95,807.

Virginia Postmasters.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, April 4.—The following Virginia fourth-class postmasters were appointed to-day: Ladd, B. L. Prince; Vesta, C. B. Clifton; Yale, B. T. Horne.

CANTON, O., April 4.—Mrs. McKinley's condition remains about the same. She went out driving frequently and visits the cemetery every day that the weather will permit.

Call Early.

WANTS

FOR

TO-MORROW'S

TIMES

MUST BE IN EARLY

TO INSURE

PROPER CLASSIFICATION.

THE TIMES

WANTS

BRING BIG AND

QUICK

RESULTS.

ONE

CENT

A WORD

TRY THEM.

CUT OUT THE